

Good Morning – my name is Charles Bommarito –

- I am a practicing interior designer
- My studio was in Eastpointe for 27 years
- I have just recently joined the Design Studios of Marshall Field's
- I have been practicing since 1978
- I am a graduate of Eastern Michigan University
- With a baccalaureate degree in interior design
- I do residential and commercial design
- I am an NCDIQ certified designer
- I am a State of Michigan listed designer

First – I would like to thank the committee for your time today - and for allowing me to speak before you today.

Let me start by saying that designers don't build buildings – nor do we want to build buildings – and – we are not here today to put anybody out of business – but quite the contrary – we have worked very hard on retail and residential exemptions and it is our hopes that you will help us to remain in business.

Our dilemma is that when a consumer needs the services of a designer and mistakenly hires a decorator – or someone representing them self as a designer – and then can't provide the level or quality of service that a qualified designer would provide – the consumer blames all designers – negatively impacting the credibility of the whole design profession.

I would like to give a brief overview of some of the services that an interior designer provides –

- **Programming** is where the design process begins –the gathering of information that pertains to the client and the project.

- the **Developmental Stage** is where analysis leads to an understanding of the spatial and occupancy qualities and limitations of a space as they pertain to the client's needs and wants

- Then **Space Planning** begins – which is the working stage where the space is carved up and the design starts to take shape – developing conceptual solutions based upon the client needs and wants.

This is followed by the **Creation of construction documents** – which are the plans and the detailed working drawings that define the work that is to be done such as . . .

- Partition plans for non-load bearing partitions
- Power and communication plans
- Reflected ceiling plans
- Lighting plans
- Materials and Finishes plans
- Furniture Layout plans
- Elevations – sections – and detail plans

It is important to note that in projects that require any plumbing, electrical, or mechanical work, or where load bearing walls, or where the structure or systems of a building are being affected –all those services and all of that work, would be consulted with and provided by those licensed tradespeople – not the designer.

Contract Administration aka Facilitating the Project – the set of services such as developing and monitoring schedules, budgets, performing cost analysis, interfacing with contractors and consultants, scheduling and monitoring tradespeople, monitoring project progress, scheduling and monitoring move-in and installations and deliveries.

These are just some of the services that a designer will perform for a project. Obviously not all projects require the same set of services – some more some less.

My business is a service business – I help people plan and organize – I provide solutions to work related or lifestyle problems in their businesses and homes by planning for their activities and functions – to me this begins with . . .

- The interview process and site inspection and progresses through
- Doing the research
- Identifying and analyzing the needs and goals of the client
- Evaluating existing conditions
- Formulating solutions
- Assessing project resources and limitations

Some considerations are work flow – lighting – egress – and aesthetics . . .

Then comes the colors, patterns and furniture selections – a space needs to function appropriately as well as look good.

In closing let me say that –

I am an educated – experienced - trained - professional designer – and would like to continue my practice here in Michigan. I'm hopeful that this legislation will protect my right to practice my profession.

Again – thank you for listening to me today.